

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

INTRODUCED BY E. ARNTZEN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF URBAN RENEWAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES.

WHEREAS, in 1959, the Montana Legislature allowed cities and towns to establish urban renewal areas for the rehabilitation, redevelopment, and revitalization of "blighted" areas within cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, that legislation authorized cities and towns to issue revenue bonds and to take advantage of other financial resources, including federal grants, to accomplish the purposes of urban renewal areas; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, the Montana Legislature authorized cities and towns to use tax increment financing to assist in urban renewal area projects; and

WHEREAS, existing urban renewal area laws contain archaic and outdated language; and

WHEREAS, tax increment financing has an effect on other taxing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has not conducted a systematic study of urban renewal areas in recent years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

(1) review the legislative history of urban renewal laws under Title 7, chapter 15, parts 42 and 43, MCA;

(2) evaluate the variety of funding sources available for urban renewal area projects and the interrelationship of those funding sources;

(3) assess the financial impact of using tax increment financing for urban renewal area projects on other taxing jurisdictions;

(4) review the planning efforts and practices, including rezoning, of cities and towns in creating urban renewal areas;

(5) evaluate whether urban renewal projects are completed in a timely fashion with available funding sources;

(6) consider ways to enhance public participation in the creation of urban renewal areas; and

(7) determine how urban renewal laws may be updated to better reflect the needs of cities and towns and the public in the 21st century.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to an interim committee, the committee seek the advice and assistance of local government officials and associations, the public, taxpayer groups, urban renewal financing experts, state agencies, and other persons the committee considers appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 62nd Legislature.

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